

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ROYAL COLLEGES

Minutes of the Academy Infectious Training Group meeting between 2-4pm on Wednesday 17th October 2007 in the Boardroom at the British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8AX.

Present

Professor Neil Douglas	Chair
Ms Joanne Brinklow	RCPATH
Dr Chris Clough	JRCPTB
Dr Derrick Crook	Microbiology/infectious disease joint training
Professor Shelley Heard	RCPATH
Dr Philip Kell	Chair of GUM SAC
Professor Goura Kudesia	Chair of Virology CATT
Dr Andrew Todd	SAC Infectious diseases/Tropical Medicine
Dr Helen Williams	SAC Microbiology
Dr Peter Wilson	Medical Microbiology
Dr Hani Zakhour	RCPATH
Ms Manjula Das	AoMRC

1) Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group.

2) a) Apologies were received from

Dr Celia Aitken, Virology; Dr Chris Conlon, Infectious Diseases; Dr John Hood, Microbiology; Dr Martin Gill, Medical Microbiology; Professor Brian Duerden; Inspector of Microbiology and Infection Control; Dr John Hood, Microbiology; Dr Harriet Hughes, Trainee representative; Dr Richard Lau, GUM; Dr Hermione Lyall, Paediatric Infectious Diseases; Dr Damien Mack, Trainee representative and Dr Alastair Miller, Infectious Diseases.

2) b) Matters arising

Covered elsewhere in the agenda.

3) a) Terms of reference of Infection Training Working Group

This document (attachment 3a) was drawn up initially in May and has since been amended (10/10/07). The document was circulated to the Group for information.

b) Draft minutes from the four infection Training Working group meetings.

Attachments 3bi-iv show the minutes of the Infection Training working group meetings on 01/05/07, 19/06/07, 07/08/07 and 24/09/07. They were circulated to the group for information.

4) Infection Training working Group Report to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

The Report (attachment 4) was the outcome of the joint work of the RCPATH and JRCPTB on infectious training for a number of different specialties. The proposal outlines the aims of the group and means by which they can be achieved, notes the challenges the group will face, addresses how the proposals could be delivered and how this should be taken forward. It indicates that consultation and more detailed information is needed, however the principles, which have been agreed, do demonstrate the potential of a core/joint training programme. It was noted that future discussions on infection training will take into account the health service requirement; training requirement and the general health of the population in both the hospital and in the wider community.

The Group has endeavoured to be inclusive and has welcomed contributions from other specialties with an interest in infection – notably GUM, Paediatrics and Public Health (these three groups were all invited to the initial Infection Training meeting of the AoMRC in 07/02/07 and to the present meeting as well as the working group's meetings). Paediatrics and Public Health wish to be kept informed but do not wish to attend meetings. GUM have participated but have not given full buy-in, it was noted that their presence has been positive and helpful in the development of this work. It is hoped that these specialties will realise the potential of the group's work and that they will be able to work together on this in the future. The Group also intend to engage scientists in these developments as well.

Mindful of the enormous recent changes to specialty training, these proposal must be carefully presented. It was also noted that this should not be viewed in a London-centric way, and capacity for such training outside of London must be carefully considered so as not to disadvantage those trainees based in different localities. Trainees have been involved with the development of this syllabus and have been very positive towards its introduction.

ACTION: Re-engagement of other specialties – Paediatrics and Public Health. A formal update of the Group's developments to be given to these specialties as well as invites to future meetings. Presidents and training leads to be included. Academic Scientists also to be approached.

5) Core Syllabus

The *Draft outline for the combined Microbiology, Infectious Disease and Genitourinary Medicine core syllabus* (attachment 5i) was circulated to the group along with the *Proposed Infection Training model* (attachment 5ii). The present programmes were looked at and the commonalities have been drawn together. This satisfies Infectious Diseases as well as Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology. As suggested in the Tooke Review, flexibility has been factored into the syllabus. It was noted that the length of training will be competency rather than time based. As the suggested syllabus is based on approved curricula and encourages flexibility, it was anticipated that gaining the PMETB's approval should not be too problematic.

On behalf of the Virology CATT, Professor Kudesia noted that the proposal fitted well for Virology. The present joint infection training with infectious diseases is popular and this would help make the specialty more attractive to potential trainees of the future. It is deliverable and would enable trainees who wish for more clinical experience via this way. Speaking for Medical Microbiology, Dr Williams also emphasised great enthusiasm for the proposal and its implications for the future. Dr

Andrew Todd also expressed excitement over the proposal, noting the positive effects of pluri-potentiality for those trainees who pursue such training.

Dr Kell was keen to be involved in discussions but queried the suitability of this for GUM, in particular the emphasis given to lab-based work. It was suggested that infectious training modules could be offered as optional modules for trainees in GUM, so as to give them the opportunity to develop their skills in different directions.

6) Preamble of joint training in infection

Attachment 6 locates the group's work in light of the recent paper on *Specifications and Standards of Service* which describes the five functions of medical microbiology and virology departments.

The training leads from Infectious Diseases, Medical Microbiology and Virology will meet shortly and the Group's work-to-date will be discussed.

ACTION: Infection Training Working Group Report to the AoMRC to be updated and circulated to the Group for agreement.

ACTION: When Group agree an updated paper, it is to be sent to the Colleges – RCPATH and RCPs and be presented to the specialties.

7) Implications of the Tooke Review

The present programme would offer flexibility for trainees and cross specialty work which been encouraged in the Tooke Interim Report. The final Tooke Report is awaited following feedback on the interim report and then the government will respond. Only thereafter can Tooke's impact on such endeavours be fully ascertained.

8) The next steps

Following an update of the report, circulation to the related colleges and presentation at the forthcoming training meetings, the report should be sent out for consultation. The need for sensitive presentation of this work was reiterated. The format of this consultation has not yet been decided, feedback from the training meetings can help to inform this.

NHS Employers to be approached in order to assess how these developments would effect service delivery. Other constituents to be agreed by the end of the year.

This group to meet again in February/March 2008.

ACTION: Ms Das to confirm date of the next meeting.